

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 02642 141618Z

70

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 INT-05 GSA-02 SP-02 AID-05

NSC-05 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

LAB-04 SIL-01 H-02 L-02 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

/105 W

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R 141530Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6338

UNCLAS LA PAZ 2642

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN ETRD BL

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM ON TIN DISPOSAL POLICY

REF: STATE 79825

1. I HANDED SPANISH TRANSLATION OF CLEARED TEXT OF MEMO ON US TIN DISPOSAL POLICY TO BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON APRIL 11. THE MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE WRITTEN STATEMENT OF US POLICY AND NOTED THAT HE WOULD USE PUBLICLY THE LANGUAGE OF THE MEMORANDUM WHICH REFERS TO OUR COMMITMENT TO CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO DISPOSAL. HE CALLED MY ATTENTION TO THE SERIES OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES WHICH HAD APPEARED APRIL 10 AND 11 BASED ON A WIRE SERVICE STORY OF AN ALLEGED PROTEST BY THAILAND TO THE US ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON THE POSSIBLE DISPOSAL AUTHORIZATION OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS. HE NOTED THAT THE NEWSPAPERS WERE SEEKING TO MAKE MORE OF THIS SITUATION THAN THE GOVERNMENT WISHED AND HE WOULD USE THE US MEMO TO ATTEMPT TO CALM THE NEWSPAPER OUTPUT.

2. FOLLOWING THE MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, I WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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MET BY A SERIES OF NEWSPAPER PEOPLE OUTSIDE HIS OFFICE

WHO QUESTIONED ME ABOUT THE TIN MATTER. I REFERRED THEM TO THE MINISTER BUT TOOK THE OCCASION TO STRESS OUR COMMITMENT TO CONSULT BEFORE DISPOSAL. ON APRIL 12 ALL MORNING NEWSPAPERS CARRIED SIMILAR STORIES BASED ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S BRIEFING AND MY CONVERSATIONS WITH THE THEME STRESSED THAT THE US WILL NOT SELL FROM THE TIN STOCKPILE WITHOUT PREVIOUSLY CONSULTING WITH PRODUCING COUNTRIES. ON SUNDAY APRIL 13, HOY PUBLISHED AN EDITORIAL WHICH CHARACTERIZED THE US POSITION AS POSITIVE. HOY EDITORIAL STATED THAT THE US MEMORANDUM PLUS PRESIDENT FORD'S REQUEST TO THE CONGRESS TO REVISE THE TRADE LAW WERE CLEAR SIGNS THAT THE US ADMINISTRATION HAS ADOPTED A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE HEMISPHERE. THIS EDITORIAL WAS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO ONE PUBLISHED EARLIER IN THE WEEK ATTACKING US BITTERLY FOR CONTEMPLATING THE SALE OF TIN FROM OUR STOCKPILE.

3. I BELIEVE WE HAVE GOTTEN OVER THIS MINOR FLARE-UP IN PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT OUR TIN DISPOSAL SITUATION AND WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THE DEPT'S PROMPT CLEARANCE OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT MEMORANDUM WHICH WE SUBMITTED. FOR THE FUTURE, I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED IF POSSIBLE WHEN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES TAKE UP AN AUTHORIZATION BILL AGAIN.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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